

Notes from:

Selenium Management Program - Work Group/Subcommittee Meetings

March 17, 2010 – First Colorado National Bank, Delta

Status reports, decisions made and assignments are displayed under the appropriate group or subcommittee. Responsible parties are identified in bold red print.

Attendees: see attached sign-in sheet

SMP Work Group

Status/Decisions made:

1. A mission statement will be developed for the SMP Work Group.
2. A SMP Management Committee meeting will be scheduled in May and include discussion of the MOU, stakeholder/citizen participation plan, and planning progress to date. The MC is comprised of managers of the local Federal agencies, irrigation entities, state, and local governments.

Assignments:

1. **Mike** will start a draft mission statement and circulate by email. The draft statement will be a topic discussion at the April 15th meeting.
2. **Mike** will schedule the May MC meeting.

MOU Subcommittee

Status/Decisions made:

1. A new draft has been distributed.
2. We should have an acceptable version completed by May for the MC meeting.

Assignments:

1. **All parties** should provide comments ASAP to Steve McCall.

Technical Review Subcommittee

Status/Decisions made:

1. Prevention of new selenium loading is a priority for this subcommittee. Today in a brainstorming session, we identified the following water uses of concern for creating new loading as development occurs. Specific initial “Focus” areas are identified with an asterisk.
 - a. Ponds*
 - b. Golf Courses
 - c. Septic systems (there is a question of significance)
 - d. Land modification*
 - e. Lawns and landscaping*
 - f. Increased infiltration due to development
 - g. Flow modifications (e.g., Aspinal release patterns)

- h. Depletions (some additional depletions are occurring due to increased efficiency of new on-farm irrigation systems; others could include new irrigation or domestic use and transbasin diversions)
- i. Drought (these are concentration effects including climate change)
- j. Tailwater
- k. New irrigated land
- l. Previously non-irrigated land*
- m. Rapid soil erosion* (e.g., the “canyon” of Loutzenhizer Arroyo)

Assignments:

1. The **TR Subcommittee** should review current and new prevention measures to target in the “Focus areas” at the next meeting.
2. **Lenny** will provide a copy of an NRCS study of seepage from ponds.

Science & Research Subcommittee

Status/Decisions made:

1. The subcommittee continued to discuss the cause(s) of recent higher selenium loading in the Montrose Arroyo:
 - a. It was decided to evaluate the changes that could be contributing to this phenomenon. The plan is to map land use changes in the area, overlaying these with the extent of the previously non-irrigated lands. The re-distribution of water will be examined. Areas covered by central sewer systems would be included. For an additional \$10k, USGS can add this evaluation to the report they’re doing on Montrose Arroyo funded by the Salinity Control Program.
 - b. It’s likely we will be unable to separate and/or individually quantify these new sources of selenium loading.
2. The **S&R Subcommittee** began discussing other science/research needs and priorities.

Assignments:

1. **Mike** will prepare a write-up of the issues and our plans to address the new higher selenium loads in Montrose Arroyo. Also, the **S&R Subcommittee** will gather presentation materials for decision makers on this topic. **Dave Dearstyn and Ken** will prepare a write-up listing possible reasons why the salinity levels have not changed even as selenium levels went up. They will propose how to proceed on that question.
2. The **S&R Subcommittee** will continue developing a list of science/research needs and priorities, and a process for inviting/entertaining and screening (with criteria) proposals/participation of others. **Mike** will edit the spreadsheet listing of work currently underway and current & future needs. **Ken and Denis** will review it.
3. **Mike** will recommend funding of several study activities to Reclamation management.
4. **Lenny** will look at the use of NRCS’s Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) funding to document selenium reductions from on-farm improvements.

Stakeholder/Citizen Participation (S/CP) Subcommittee

Status/Decisions made:

1. A preliminary stakeholder/citizen participation (S/CP) needs assessment (see attachment) was completed by the subcommittee.

- a. After the needs were assessed using “Bleiker” methodology, the following high priority needs/issues were identified:
 - i. 1B&C. Whose quality of life will suffer and how will people’s quality of life suffer if we fail to accomplish our mission.
 - ii. 1E. Some interests may feel our rationale for doing this SMP effort is phony, or theoretical, or academic, or insincere, or bureaucratic, or legalistic, or illegitimate, or is some other way flawed.
 - iii. 2C. How our SMP Work Group was given its mandate and how that mandate has evolved.
 - iv. 2D. It would be irresponsible for the SMP Work Group with our mission, if we did not undertake this SMP.
 - v. 3E. What further work will be done over the next several months and years; how it will be done; what our role will be; who else will be involved and how they will be involved.
 - vi. 4. That we are listening; we do care about the costs, the negative effects and the hardships that our actions will cause people.
- b. The initial entities to focus our messages on are Delta & Montrose counties and cities and other irrigation companies (besides UVWUA).

Assignments:

1. The **S/CP Subcommittee** should:
 - a. Develop a strategy/plan to address the needs/issues from above.
 - b. Work to initially involve Delta and Montrose counties and cities and other irrigation entities in SMP. It would also be good to brief the Congressional reps.
2. **Sonja** will contact Mike Berry about initiating a Lower Gunnison Basin Wise Water Use Council.
3. **Sonja** will continue development of the Frequently Asked Questions.

Meeting Schedule (all meetings will be held in Delta unless otherwise noted; meeting room locations may vary; please be sure to check the agenda. Please notify Mike well in advance if you wish to participate by conference phone.)

1. April 15 at NRCS Delta office
2. April 29 at NRCS Delta office
3. May 19 at NRCS Delta office

Outstanding/incomplete assignments:

1. **Barb** will develop a short write-up of the procedures and responsibilities for fish tissue sampling.
3. **Mike** will begin a review of the previous process that identified and screened 130 load reduction/prevention measures.
4. **Mike** will arrange a Dell Smith presentation on an environmentally acceptable form of PAM.
5. The **S&R subcommittee** will discuss the potential for use of the True Green Organics technology. The STF will also discuss its use for remediating Sweitzer Lake.
6. **Sonja** will work with the USBR to estimate selenium reductions due to piping and lining projects.

March 17 SMP Work Group

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>EMAIL</u> IF NOT ON OUR <u>MAILING LIST</u>
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